

## Alfred Balch to Andrew Jackson, July 21, 1831, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### ALFRED BALCH TO JACKSON.

Louisville, Ky. , July 21, 1831.

*My Dear Sir,* In passing from Washington to this place, I enjoyed the opp'y of seeing many persons from all parts of the country and more especially from Virginia, thro which state, I travelled for four hundred miles. I am entirely satisfied that the old Dominion remains true to our cause, the secret efforts of Govr Floyd to the contrary notwithstanding. Nevertheless, I feel my self bound by my regard for your person and interests to say, that those who are most attached to you, are the most distressed at the late events at Washington. Those scenes however will not be re-acted. Great efforts have been made, to induce the people to believe that there exists at Washington "a power behind the throne greater than the throne itself." This is always the resort of cunning and unprincipled adversaries. It is my most decided opinion that Major Lewis should set up an establishment for himself<sup>1</sup> —should until the close of the next session of Congress disconnect himself from you and see you only in a ceremonious manner. It is also my opinion that Mr Kendall should

<sup>1</sup> This advice seems to have been taken; for Lewis's daughter, Ann Maria, writing in reply to Jackson's invitation for her to stay at the White House during an approaching visit to Washington, said, Dec. 3, 1831:

" *My dear Uncle,* A thousand thanks for your kind offer which I accept with pleasure at least for a short time but I am affraid the house will be too full, if so I beg you will tell me and I will go and stay with Papa. He wrote me that if I wished it he could get me a very

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nice room at Burroughs where he is going to stay or is staying: I shall be in Washington the last of this month."

attend *only* to the duties of his office and let you wholly alone, And that Dr Jones should be exclusively employed in sorting letters. Let me not be misunderstood. I interfere with no mans friendships or emoluments. Let these gentlemen serve the country. But, let them also suppress the clamour made by the public and pa[r]ticularly by thousands of your own *jealous* friends, by leaving you for a season. I pray My Dear Genl, most earnest[t]ly and affectionately that this course may be instantly adopted. In passing thro the Presidents house and noting the state of matters there, I perceived the want of a presiding Lady in the establishment. The presence of ladies will prevent intrusions, to which I perceive that you are exceedingly liable. It is true Mr Jefferson had no females with him but it must be recollected that Washington was a small place when he was in office and that for every *politician* then we have 20 now.

As Woodbury has but little of the *suaviter in modo* , Barry must take a new position next winter so that he will be able to see our friends in Congress and gratify their vanity by saying pleasant things to them and giving them every now and then a Bite. The shortest road to the hearts of half mankind is down their throats. All experience proves this remark to be true. The battle next winter will be hot enough. It becomes us to prepare for it by putting our friends in Congress in *training*. Calhoun is one of the worst of enemies. He is as restless as a guilty mans soul. His personal affections are given to all the ignorant and enthusiastic. It is high time that his views should be developed and his real character understood by our friends. He is a spy in our camp and is worse than our open and decided enemies. The time will soon come when we shall make him wish he had never been born.

Our true policy now is to effect a union of action of all the *true* hearted, throughout the country and this will be best effected by a union of our *real* friends in Congress next winter. Let us clear our decks for action. Prepare our friends at Head quarters to move

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in a solid column. And there will not be the slightest danger. The policy of Calhoun is to create interruptions amongst ourselves. The game of McClean and Clay is to foment them. We must counteract these tactics and no longer suffer the glory of the measures of the admn to be obscurd by the clouds of our petty discontents. One great object of Calh. in publishing his "Book" was to call off the attention of the people from the masterly negotiations of the admn with foreign powers, and when an arrangment is made with France, he will play the same game. Next winter he will have some new plot—attempt some new scheme, in which his cold-blooded selfishness will predominate over his regard, (if any he has) for the interests of the Country. Mark it! you will see this prophecy verified as sure as you live.

When Eaton and his wife arrive I shall take such steps as will be most judicious. I cannot beleive that this poor fellows difficulties will again interrupt the public. It is impossible for me to suppose that Donelson and his wife will be absent from you more than 5 or 6 weeks longer. After I see him I will write you. Macomb and his wife sent a message by me to him and her which will have a prevailing influence upon their minds. In a word I go for you and the cause of Liberty and the Country with all my heart and soul my mind and strength. . . .

Very sincerely yours

P. S. Please give my best regards to Trist, whose single heartedness and perfectly pure motives in all that he does entitle him to the confidence of all men of honor.

Also to Earl<sup>2</sup> the very soul of goodness and honor. Please tell him that I shall write him in a few days after I reach home.

<sup>2</sup> See vol. III., p. 39n.